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ABSTRACT

This paper suggests that, in times of economic crisis, libraries may find support by establishing "Friends of the Library" groups, and reports that, with the assistance of Arizona's Northland Pioneer College's (NPC) Department of Library/Media Technology, several such library groups have been established. The success of the Friends of Holbrook (Arizona) Public Library is profiled and it is noted that the "Friends" members--who are not librarians--have been instrumental in raising funds, writing book reviews, and volunteering to aid in library staffing. NPC has been able to bolster this group's efforts by offering classes that have been developed in response to community needs: i.e., grant writing; library advocacy; curriculum design and libra[illegible] involvement; and church/genealogy librarianship. Copies of the constitution and bylaws of the Friends of the Holbrook Public Library are attached. (MAB)

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MAKE A FRIEND....
BE A FRIEND....
START A FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

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MAKE A FRIEND ... BE A FRIEND ... START A FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Northeastern Arizona is dotted with many small libraries. In Navajo County alone, there are seventy-seven libraries. Funding is poor at best, and many feel isolated. Yet there is considerable interest in getting together and increasing public awareness and funding for area libraries.

In January, 1991, Elisabeth F. Ruffner, long a library advocate for Arizona libraries, came to Springerville under the auspices of the Department of Library/Media Technology of Northland Pioneer College. She spoke to ten individuals representing six Apache County communities about libraries and the need to start small, but continue to grow. One community, Vernon, a small hamlet on the outskirts of Show Low, Arizona elected to start a library as an adjunct to a local bakery, the town's only non-sectarian meeting spot. The bakery was in danger of closing, but an individual at Mrs. Ruffner's workshop was so inspired, that by the next Saturday, a week after the workshop, she had managed to keep the bakery open, with the addition of a community library as a significant plus.

Mrs. Ruffner's workshop established an important fact for the individuals attending--there is strength in numbers, and getting together and discussing possibilities does have advantages. Creativity and ideas abound, and nothing but good is served.

One community in this area has made a substantial investment in library services. Holbrook, Arizona is a county seat. It has fallen on hard times. Its major employer, Arizona Public Service, has curtailed operations at its coal-fired generating station ten miles west of Holbrook in favor of putting most of its efforts toward a nuclear powered station near Phoenix. The economy is sagging, and the public library is more important than ever.

With the assistance of the Department of Library/Media Technology at Northland Pioneer College, a Friends of the Holbrook Public Library group has

been organized. Currently, the group has about twenty members, but the membership is growing. The Department of Library/Media Technology is providing technical assistance, but the leadership is coming from within the newly formed group. Lay individuals who are not librarians are assuming leadership roles. The treasuer works for a local bank, and the president is a local clergyman. The group has come up with marvelous fund raising ideas, including a puppet show, book sale, publication of the community's history, etc. Members are writing book reviews using materials from the library's collection so that a local book review column may be started in the community newspaper. Although the library is facing serious cutbacks due to the economic situation in the area, the Department of Library/Media Technology at Northland Pioneer College will provide training so that friends volunteers may be used to aid in library staffing, and the current varied schedule of hours that the library is open can be maintained.

The Department of Library/Media Technology at Northland Pioneer College is able to construct classes which meet community needs. During the fall of 1991, special grant writing classes, a library advocacy class, courses in curriculum design and library involvment and church/genealogy librarianship will be offered to offset the department's regular offerings. All of these courses were developed in response to community needs. Mrs. Ruffner will again repeat her workshop for friends and volunteers, and other courses will be developed as needed. Tuition will continue to be low--only $12.00 per credit hour for in-state residents.

Starting a friends of the library group is only one outgrowth of library/media technology courses as Northland Pioneer College. Because the department is aware of the needs within its service area, additional outgrowths will be spotted and acted upon. The friends group is one of the more successful outgrowths because it has allowed individuals within a specific community to come to the aid of a valuable community institution--the public library--before the library is allowed to fade by the wayside.

CONSTITUTION
of the
FRIENDS OF THE HOLBROOK, ARIZONA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Article I

Name

The name of the organization shall be the Friends of the Holbrook, Arizona Public Library.

Article II

Purpose

Section I. The Friends of the Holbrook, Arizona Public Library shall be a nonpolicymaking and nonprofit organization, the object of which shall be to promote the interest and welfare of the Holbrook, Arizona Public Library as a cultural and educational asset to the citizens within the boundaries of the Holbrook, Arizona city limits.

Section II. Funds shall be expended in accordance with the purpose of the organization and on approval of the executive board of the Friends.

Section III. In the event that this organization should for any reason be dissolved, all monies shall be given to the Holbrook, Arizona Public Library.

Article III

Membership

Anyone interested in the Friends of the Holbrook, Arizona Public Library may become a member by regular attendance at the meetings and helping whenever and wherever possible during fundraisers and other activities that the Friends sponsor or are involved in.

Article IV

Officers and Elections

Section I. The officers of the organization shall consist of a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer, all of whom shall be drawn from the members of the organization.

Section II. Nominations for office shall be made by a committee appointed by the executive board. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the election provided that the consent of the person nominated has been obtained before the nomination is made.

Section III. Elections shall be held in December of each year.

Article V

Executive Board

Section I. The officers and three board members shall constitute the executive board, of which the president and secretary shall be chairperson and secretary, respectively.

Section II. The executive board shall manage all the affairs of the organization.

Section III. The advisors and the librarian of the Holbrook, Arizona Public Library shall be ex-officio members of the executive board.

Section IV. Meetings of the executive board shall be held at the call of the chairperson or upon the written request of three members of the executive board, due notice having been given.

Section V. The executive board shall fill vacancies in executive offices for the unexpired term. (When expedient, the chairperson may assume this duty.)

Article VI

Committees

Special committees may be appointed as required.

Article VII

Quorum

Section I. A quorum at each meeting shall consist of members present, provided two officers are present.

Section II. Two officers and a majority of other executive board members shall constitute a quorum of the executive board.

Article VIII

Parliamentary Procedure

Parliamentary authority shall be "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised", provided it is consistent with the organization's constitution and bylaws.

Article IX

Amendments

This constitution and the bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the organization by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, provided that a written copy of the proposed amendment, signed by two members, has been submitted to the executive board and, in turn, posted by the secretary in the Holbrook, Arizona Public Library at least fifteen days prior to the meeting.

BYLAWS
of the
FRIENDS OF THE HOLBROOK, ARIZONA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Article I

Membership

Membership is open to anyone interested in the purposes of the organization and who will regularly attend meetings and participate in fundraising and other activities which the Friends sponsor or are involved in.

Article II

Officers

Section I. The officers of the organization shall consist of a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer.

Section II. Outgoing officers shall deliver to their successors in office all records and other materials belonging to their office at the close of the term.

Article III

Duties of Officers

Section I. The president shall preside at all meetings, approve all bills for payment, and appoint all committees after consulting with other officers.

Section II. The vice-president shall act as parliamentarian at meetings and, in the absence of the president, shall perform the duties of that office.

Section III. The secretary shall be responsible for the correct recording of the minutes of the meetings and shall present the minutes of previous meetings and assist with correspondence.

Section IV. The treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds, which shall be deposited to the account of the Friends of the Holbrook, Arizona Public Library in a bank designated by the executive board. He/she shall keep an accurate and complete record of the funds and shall be prepared to report on them at each Friends' meeting and at any executive board meeting, or at the request of the president. An annual audit shall be made as appointed by the other officers.

Article IV

Terms of Office

Section I. Terms of office shall begin immediately upon election.

Section II. Officers shall serve one-year terms.